

that in terms of stimulating the economy, it is pretty hard to go to work if you are sick and cannot get health care. It is pretty hard for children to learn and become a great part of the future leadership and the future workforce of this country if they are sick and cannot go to school.

Back in February, we argued to get it into a slimmed down stimulus package, but we did not pass it there either.

I worked with Senator ROCKEFELLER to try to amend the energy bill, but we did not get a vote on that back in March. Again, in April, I cosponsored stand-alone legislation with Senator ROCKEFELLER and Senator SMITH, and in May I cosponsored stand-alone legislation with Senator COLLINS and Senator NELSON.

We have been working on this issue for quite some time. We recognized last fall when many of our State Governors were having to take cuts that those who were most vulnerable in our society were going to be hurt the most, and we needed to do something and we needed to act.

I am a proud cosponsor of the amendment before us in which the two previous proposals I mentioned have been merged. I thank my colleagues, certainly Senator ROCKEFELLER, Senator SMITH, Senator COLLINS, and Senator NELSON for their leadership and their perseverance.

In times of tight budgets and economic downturns in our States, States are cutting their Medicaid budgets, and we are seeing it right and left across this country. Who suffers because of this? Our most vulnerable citizens: Our low-income families, our children, and our senior citizens.

Medicaid funding plays a critical role in senior care, with two-thirds of the residents of America's nursing homes depending on Medicaid payments for their care. But many States, including Arkansas, are facing real budget crunches with their Medicaid budgets. We are seeing, because of a multitude of other medical underpayments, whether it be UPL, whether it be physician payment reimbursement cuts, whether we are talking about ambulance provider fee schedules, we are looking at a crisis in rural America in the delivery of health care.

It is a serious problem that we are facing now, but if we do not do something pretty quickly, we are going to see some devastation. I have heard from hospitals in my State that are going to, in the next couple of months, stop providing OB care. I have constituents at that point who will have to travel 90 miles to get obstetric care. We are going backward, not forward, in providing the health care across the board in rural areas, as well as urban areas, that is so necessary to the quality of life that each American deserves.

In Arkansas, our population of seniors is a snapshot of where the Nation is going to be in the next few years. So we are already facing the challenges with which other States will have to

contend, the challenges that other States will have to face in the next 10 to 15 years.

It is also true that we have a disproportionately high number of seniors living in poverty, and many of them rely on Medicaid funding for health care and long-term care. Especially in rural States such as Arkansas where health care services are harder to come by, Medicaid makes a huge difference in helping families afford care for their seniors.

We need greater investment in Medicaid funding to States, especially at a time when our States are in such a devastating budget situation.

The bills I have helped introduce in the Senate will adjust the FMAP level so that States can benefit from greater Medicaid funding, which will go a long way toward helping our most vulnerable citizens, particularly our seniors.

I appreciate the support I have received from our colleagues today, those who have worked tirelessly on this issue. And I can tell you that we will all keep fighting to get this done. No matter what barriers people may put before us, we are going to continue to make this fight. I think the fact we have been doing it since last November should indicate to our colleagues that this is essential, we know it is important, our constituents know it is important, and the rest of the Senate must learn that it is important enough for us to act now.

Under this amendment, Arkansas stands to gain \$80 million over 18 months. This is a much needed injection into our economy and into the quality of life of our most vulnerable citizens.

To my colleague from West Virginia, I thank him so much for his leadership on this issue. I have enjoyed working with him since last fall, and we are going to continue on this effort because we know how important it is to the lives of the people we represent in this body. It is so important we move forward as quickly as we possibly can.

I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, for 60 seconds, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Mississippi, Mr. COCHRAN, be added as a cosponsor of the Rockefeller-Collins-Smith, et cetera, amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MOMENT OF SILENCE TO HONOR OFFICER CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE GIBSON

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now observe a moment of silence to honor the memory of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson.

(Moment of Silence.)

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, Senator DASCHLE and I and other members of the leadership of the Senate have joined the House of Representatives at the memorial entrance to have a moment of silence in memory of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson. I know that moment of silence was honored in the Senate. We do not want this moment to go by without making some specific remarks.

We remember today with fondness and in prayer and everlasting gratitude the sacrifice of two great men of peace who lost their lives in the line of duty in our Capitol 4 years ago at precisely 3:40 p.m.

Officer J.J. Chestnut and Detective John Gibson were part of our congressional family, a family whose security was their life and for whose safety they died.

On July 24, 1998, our gift of freedom was challenged every bit as determinedly as it was on September 11. And just as the Nation witnessed on September 11, we saw on July 24, selfless protectors and guardians rise to the defense of the liberty of all Americans. No one who was in the Capitol that day 4 years ago or who revels in the triumph of democracy that this great dome symbolizes could help but be affected by the profound heroism of these fallen comrades, Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson, and also of the courage and the dedication and the loving of their families.

We cherish their memory and gratefully accept responsibility every day of proving ourselves worthy of their example and the cherished gift of freedom they left us. Our thoughts and prayers and gratitude are with the Chestnut and Gibson families today and every day.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. This is a sad day for the Capitol Hill family. Four years ago today, two very good men—two members of our Capitol Hill family, Officer J.J. Chestnut and Detective John Gibson—were killed defending this Capitol Building.

As Senator LOTT has noted, a few moments ago we paused for a moment of silence to pay tribute to these fallen heroes for their selfless service and their enormous sacrifice.

Just before that moment of silence, there was a ceremony at the memorial door entrance to this building. Under the bronze plaque that bears the names and likenesses of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson, we laid roses in their honor.

Yesterday at that same spot someone left another tribute: a small basket of red, white, and blue flowers. Attached to the basket was a card. Inside the card was a handwritten note that read: We will never forget. You were my friends. God bless. It was signed by a member of the Capitol Police Force.

Also yesterday John Gibson's beloved Boston Red Sox trounced the Tampa Bay Devil Rays 22 to 4—in the first game of a double hitter, no less. So I know John Gibson is smiling up in heaven today.

And even though the gardening he loved is struggling in this heat and drought, I am sure J.J. Chestnut is right there with him—smiling, too.

For those of us down here who knew them, it is a little harder to smile today. The great poet Emily Dickinson wrote, after someone you loved dies, you feel "the presence of their absence everywhere."

The absence of J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson is felt today by many people, by their friends, their fellow officers, most of all by their families, their wives and children, and in Officer Chestnut's case, his grandchildren. The Gibson and Chestnut families have felt the presence of the absence of John and J.J. for three Thanksgivings and three Christmases, at too many birthday parties, weddings, and graduations.

Those of us who work in the Capitol want the Gibson and Chestnut families to know that in all those moments our hearts have been with them. We also want them to know that we, too, feel the presence of the absence of their loved ones. We feel it when we pass the memorial door entrance. We feel it when we see Capitol Police officers working double shifts to protect us. We felt it on September 11 when our Nation was attacked and on October 15 when the anthrax letter was opened.

During this past year, we have all been reminded with terrible certainty that there are people in the world who would like to destroy this building, the people's House, and the government and the ideals for which it stands. We also know with absolute certainty that as long as there are patriots such as John Gibson and J.J. Chestnut who are

willing to sacrifice their lives to defend our freedom and safety, this people's House and this great Nation will endure.

As the note on the basket said: We will never forget. They were our friends and our protectors. God bless them today and always.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from West Virginia.

GREATER ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE PHARMACEUTICALS ACT OF 2001—Continued

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, understanding the gravity of the moment, I do not want to leave a very important piece of legislation. Before I say a word, I would like to add Senator ZELL MILLER as a cosponsor to the amendment and I ask unanimous consent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, as I look at the situation, we have a whole lot of meetings going on around this Capitol—conference committees on trade, conference committees on prescription drugs. We have a generic drug bill. That is the underlying bill here with a prescription drug amendment attached to it. We have a Federal matching Medicaid amendment which I am offering. There is so much going on on health but there is so little that is going on on health, and it perturbs me.

Senator DURBIN, when he was talking, pointed out the importance of Medicaid to hospitals, nursing homes, and others. It makes it extremely important for me to note that in the State I represent, 80 percent of our hospitals are losing money. They are mostly rural hospitals, and most of them depend upon Medicaid and Medicare in combination, usually at 85, 80, sometimes 75 percent of their total reimbursement of everything that they do. That is the nature of the State I represent. So many others are like that. It is the nature of part of the State that the Presiding Officer represents.

So the question of are we doing Medicaid and reimbursing States so they can keep their health facilities open and Medicaid available to their people is a profoundly important matter. But we treat it as if it were not.

We are trying our best to come to an agreement on prescription drugs. There is no particular compromise in sight at the moment. We had two votes yesterday. Both failed. The American people ask us: What are you doing about health care for our people? My people

ask, What are you doing about health care for our people? What am I to answer? What am I to tell them?

I can refer, if I want, to the catastrophic health bill experience of a number of us, where we had a terrific bill that the House turned down three times, the Senate refused to turn down three times. But the point was that we finally had to yield, and there was no catastrophic health care bill.

Then we had something called the Pepper Commission where we came up with a very good solution for both long term and acute care, and it went nowhere. It was declared dead on arrival, and those who so declared it were correct. Nothing happened.

Then we had the very large health care experience of the early 1990s when everything got very politicized. The result was twofold: One, that we passed nothing on that health care bill; and, two, everybody retreated inside their shells. Nobody seemed to want to take up health care, and health care became something that somehow, either politically or for whatever reason—because it was complex—people did not want to undertake.

Senator Jack Danforth and I, and now Senator FRIST and I, started something called the alliance for health reform. The whole idea was to get those who did not serve on the Finance Committee more acquainted with the intricacies and difficulties of what is a very difficult problem; that is, all the acronyms and complexities associated with health care. Now there are a lot more people who know a lot more about health care, and we are still not getting anything done.

Now we are talking about the Federal matching adjustment for Medicaid to our most vulnerable people, to people to whom, we go to our Jefferson and Jackson Day Dinners, when we appeal and bring out emotion and speak emotionally, and then when we come up here, we do nothing to help them.

I put this amendment on the floor with endless cosponsors. I am looking at SUSAN COLLINS, a good Republican from Maine, and there she stands, perhaps ready to speak, and she and seven other Republicans are cosponsors of this amendment. Senator ZELL MILLER just became a cosponsor. So we have, I don't know, 35, 40 sponsors.

I come to two conclusions. No 1, I think this amendment is going to pass and that there may be those who are not coming to this floor to speak against it because they do not want to because they know their Governors feel so passionately about it. Whether they be Republican, Democratic, or Independent, Governors are absolutely passionate about passing this amendment. But they cannot do it. We have to do it for them.

We are not doing universal health care. We haven't done anything on prescription drugs yet. We have not done a generic drug bill yet. We have not done anything about importation. We passed a bill—the White House said they do